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PP RUEHFK  
DE RUEHKO #5450 3390328  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 050328Z DEC 07  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0017  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY  
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 4745  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 8412  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0442  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1985  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 6494  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 7249  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 005450

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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,  
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;  
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;  
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CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;  
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - NIE REPORT ON IRAN

LEAD STORIES: Most Wednesday papers gave top play to the results of an OECD survey showing that Japanese high school students ranked lower than before in science, reading, and math.

¶1. "U.S. Urged to Make Strategic Adjustments to Approach to Iran" The liberal Mainichi's report from Washington said (12/5): "Following the revelation on Monday that this year's National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) concluded that Iran halted its nuclear-weapons program in 2003, the Bush administration is likely to be pressed to make adjustments to its strategy of isolating Iran.... The assessment, which downplayed the nuclear threat posed by Iran, comes on the heels of the failure by U.S. intelligence authorities to locate WMD in Iraq. President Bush warned at a press conference in October that Tehran's possession of nuclear arms could lead to a third world war. The credibility of his approach will likely be called into question now."

¶2. "NIE Report to Affect U.S. Policy" A Washington correspondent for the moderate-conservative Yomiuri wrote (12/5): "The NIE report concluding that Iran halted its nuclear-weapons program in 2003 has dealt a severe blow to the Bush administration, which has set a goal of preventing Tehran from developing nuclear arms. Washington's policy of refusing to talk with Tehran and instead applying pressure will likely be the subject of both domestic and foreign criticism in the future."

¶3. "Possibility of Action Against Iran Declines" The conservative Sankei's dispatch from Washington stated (12/5): "U.S. intelligence authorities have concluded that Iran halted its nuclear-weapons program in 2003, revising its earlier assessment that Tehran has been

continuing that program. Although President Bush called for continued pressure on Tehran during his press conference on Tuesday by saying that Iran was, is, and will be dangerous, Washington appears to have lost the option of using force against Tehran."

SCHIEFFER